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FROM: BERLIN

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 412, NOVEMBER 27, 4 AM

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SENT DEPARTMENT 412, PRIORITY BONN 363, REPEATED INFORMATION
MOSCOW 126, PARIS 74, LONDON 61

BONN PASS POLAD USAREUR 137.

PARIS ALSO PASS USCINCEUR THURSTON AND WEST.

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GOVERNING MAYOR BRANDT TONIGHT TOLD ME THAT HIS INITIAL REACTION TO REPORTS SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE WAS ONE OF "SHOCK AND DISMAY." HE FOUND STATEMENTS REPORTED PARTICULARLY INCOMPREHENSIBLE IN LIGHT REPORTS HE HAD RECEIVED FROM FONMIN BRENTANO, WHO HAD CONFERRED WITH THE THREE AMBASSADORS, THAT THE WESTERN POSITION WAS TOUGHENING. HE FURTHER INDICATED BELIEF THAT THE EVENTUAL SOVIET ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD NOW BE EVEN MORE UNCOMPROMISING THAN IT WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN. THERE HAD AFTER ALL, HE SAID, BEEN A POSSIBILITY THAT THE DELAY IN MOSCOW HAD BEEN DUE TO SOME MISGIVINGS ABOUT WHAT WESTERN POLICY MIGHT BE. HE FELT GREATLY CONCERNED THAT DEALINGS ON THE PART OF THE WESTERN POWERS WITH THE GDR WERE ABOUT TO BEGIN WHICH WOULD BE THE FIRST MOVES IN A PROCESS THAT WOULD ULTIMATELY AFFECT THE VERY EXISTENCE OF WEST BERLIN.

HE WAS REMINDED OF THE SITUATION THAT HAD BEEN FACED BY ERNST REUTER IN 1948 WHEN NEGOTIATIONS WERE GOING ON BETWEEN THE WESTERN POWERS AND THE SOVIETS REGARDING CURRENCY REFORM. NEGOTIATIONS, HE SAID, THAT HAD EVEN BEEN CARRIED TO STALIN HIMSELF --- AND WHICH INVOLVED THE POSSIBILITY THAT WEST BERLIN

MIGHT

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-2- 412, NOVEMBER 27, 4 AM FROM BERLIN

MIGHT BE INCLUDED BY AGREEMENT OF THE WESTERN POWERS IN THE EAST MARK AREA. AT THAT TIME ERNST REUTER HAD CALLED FOR A MASS DEMONSTRATION OF BERLINERS TO MAKE AN APPEAL TO THE ENTIRE FREE WORLD AGAINST ABANDONMENT OF THE CITY. ON SEPT 9, 1948, 300,000 BERLINERS HAD COME TOGETHER IN FRONT OF THE REICHSTAG RUIN IN RESPONSE TO REUTER'S APPEAL. BRANDT CHARACTERIZED THE SITUATION TODAY AS MUCH MORE DANGEROUS THAN THAT AGAINST WHICH REUTER AND HIS FELLOW CITIZENS HAD APPEALED. HE ADDED THAT IF IT BECOMES NECESSARY FOR BERLIN AGAIN TO APPEAL TO THE FREE WORLD FOR PROTECTION, AN EVEN LARGER MASS OF BERLINERS WILL RESPOND TO HIS CALL.

BRANDT REMARKED THAT FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION IN RESPONSE TO THE INQUIRIES WITH WHICH HE AND OTHER WEST BERLIN OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN OVERWHELMED THIS EVENING, HE WAS ISSUING A STATEMENT EMPHASIZING THE POSITIVE ASPECT OF THE PRESS REPORT FROM WASHINGTON, I.E. THAT THE US WOULD INSIST ON THE MAINTENANCE OF ITS RIGHTS IN BERLIN. HE WAS CITING DIFFERENCES IN THE VARIOUS PRESS REPORTS AS A REASON FOR REFRAINING FROM COMMENT ON OTHER DETAILS. WITH REGARD TO REFERENCES TO THE "AGENT THEORY" AND THE REPORTED AGREEMENT GIVEN THERETO BY THE FEDREP HE WAS STATING THAT HE HAD ASKED FONMIN BRENTANO FOR AN EXPLANATION.

THE MAYOR HOPED THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR WASHINGTON TO ISSUE SOME CLARIFICATION THAT MIGHT COUNTER THE SERIOUS REACTION INITIAL REPORTS HAD CAUSED IN BERLIN, POSSIBLY THROUGH INTERPRETATION IN THE SENSE THAT THE WESTERN POWERS WOULD ACCEPT GDR OFFICIALS AS AGENTS ONLY IN THE EVENT THAT THEY WERE DESIGNATED BY THE SOVIETS.

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